

Minutes

Coastal Carolina Regional Airport Authority

May 19, 2026

Chairman Pope called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was taken, and the following Board members were present in person:

Mayor Bender, Eckert, Harris (2:21), Liner, Morris, Pope, Riggle, and Wood.

Commissioner Jones and Murray were excused.

Frazer was absent.

Also present in person: Andy Shorter, Airport Director; Ray Dunn and Daniel Stanton, Dunn, Pittman, Skinner, and Ashton; April Hill, Airport Security Coordinator and Board Recorder; Amy Ritchie, Terminal & Facilities Manager; Charlie Dunn, Airport Operations Manager, and John Massey, Talbert, Bright, and Ellington.

Also present via conference call: Edward Carroll, Tidewater Aviation.

Public Hearing – FY2027 Airport Budget

On motion by Wood, seconded by Morris, the Board entered a public hearing. In favor 6, opposed 0.

Shorter opened the session with an overview of the proposed FY27 budget strategy, while emphasizing the airport's mission and vision. The budget strategy focuses on minimizing expenditures while continuing to slowly increase revenue through additional air service passenger traffic projections and new ground lease opportunities. Shorter also discussed the capital equipment investment strategy that will require an additional \$90,000 draw down from fund balance for anticipated costs to cover contracts for new security monitoring systems and

renew other annual maintenance contracts. It does represent a 40% reduction from the fund balance draw required in FY26. The airport's financial performance remained mostly flat in FY26, noting a 5% decrease in year-to-date passenger traffic that has been reflected nationally in the travel and tourism industry. The proposed \$3,069,596 balanced budget represents a modest 1.7% increase over last year. The airport's marketing efforts and air service performance were discussed with positive projections for the airlines in FY27. The budget presented fulfills the anticipated expenses requirements over the next year, while projecting a realistic calculation in planned revenue. Pope commended the staff for their due diligence in managing the proposed budget effectively.

On motion by Morris, seconded by Wood, the public session was closed with no public comment. In favor 6, opposed 0.

Secretary's Report

On motion by Liner, seconded by Wood, the minutes of April 21, 2026, were approved. In favor 7, opposed 0.

Treasurer's Report

Wood referred to the treasurer's report that was submitted in the monthly packet, mentioning the operating revenue for the parking and rental car line items. Shorter commented on the operating revenue deficit and his expectations for improvement over the next two reports.

On motion by Liner, second by Eckert, the Treasurer's Report was approved. In favor 7, opposed 0.

Commercial Development Committee Report

Harris advised that the committee did not meet this month but that Shorter will discuss a few items in New Business and executive session.

Marketing Committee Report

Riggle advised that the local marketing committee did not meet this month as the next meeting is scheduled for July 20th. The airport marketing team has been diligently working with the new marketing firm to familiarize the team with the airport's budget and vision. Riggle commented that the new firm has taken a deep dive into the budget as they have prepared a proposed plan for next fiscal year as they connect with EWN and immerse themselves in the local industry. She also reported the marketing performance as satisfactory as the team remains focused on social media and paid advertisements. Riggle added that they did observe some of the overall social media traffic soften a bit last month but contributed that to some of the visitor traffic that they saw soften on the tourism and local business side. The preparations for the Harrier Sundown scheduled for June 1st-4th are successfully coming together. Riggle commented that the downtown hotels have sold out for the event and that they anticipate more than 800 attendees from across the nation, as well as internationally, travelling by air or ground for the event. Shorter asked for an update from the recent air show aboard Cherry Point. Riggle reported that according to a MCAS press release, there were approximately 70,000 attendees. All reports show a successful event with strong visitor traffic.

Director's Update

Air Service Update: Shorter referred to the enplanement/deplanement data that was included in the Board's packet. He noted that year to date,

American is lagging a bit with Breeze tracking with a 10% increase. Overall, cumulatively, the numbers are tracking with a 5% overall decrease from last year. Shorter commented that he expects the numbers of seats with American to increase through October. Additionally, Shorter advised that the airport has applied for the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) in the amount of \$750,000.00. He shared a copy of the application and steps taken to secure it. He mentioned the importance of a public-private partnership such as the C1A and outlined the goals of the grant, including addressing airfares, airline support, strategic plans, innovative airport practices, benefits of winning a SCASDP grant, community support and reinstating air service. The airport has received two airline support letters from Sky West and United Airlines. Grant awards should be issued by August.

Shorter asked Wood to update the end of the Minimum Revenue Guarantee (MRG) with Breeze. Wood reported that everything continues to be positive. He said that they are waiting for one more invoice but anticipate not having to utilize the full MRG from the agreement.

Upcoming NCAA Meeting with State Representatives: Shorter advised that the NCAA will be meeting with State Representatives on June 2nd and that he would be unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict but did submit a few informational sheets describing the updates on the Corporate Aerospace Development area and the funding being invested in the area, updates on the Runway Safety Area and the Williams Road re-alignment project, and efforts to recruit new air service. Shorter commented that he is hopeful that the information will be beneficial as the State continues budgeting for FY27.

Project Ordinance and Budget Amendment Updates for Aerospace
Development

Shorter submitted the following budget amendment and budget ordinance for the Boards approval:

**Budget Amendment
Fund 835**

Revenues	Amount	Expenditures	Amount
8357050-33301 State Grant	\$309,119.00	8357050-47600 Construction	\$309,119.00
Total:	\$309,119.00	Total:	\$309,119.00

Justification: To increase the budget for the Aerospace Development Area to reflect ST Wooten's Change Order #3.

On motion by Morris, seconded by Wood, the Board approved the budget amendment for Fund 835. In favor 7, opposed 0. A roll call vote was taken; 7 yes, 0 no.

**Project Ordinance
Aerospace Development Area-Fund 835**

Expenditures:

Architectural & Engineering	\$1,659,154
Construction – Clearing & Grubbing	\$1,360,725
Construction – Water & Sewer	\$2,197,363
Construction – Access Road	\$996,942
Construction – Taxi Lane & Apron	\$8,051,379
Total	\$14,265,563

Revenues:

FAA Grant Funds	\$3,247,300
State Grant Funds	\$6,616,584
Interest on State Grant Funds	\$110,975
Transfer from State Funds Reserve	\$663,630
Commerce Grant	\$1,436,925
Golden Leaf Foundation Grant	\$753,700
Transfer from Operations Fund 810	\$1,436,449

Total **\$14,265,563**

On motion by Wood, seconded by Liner the Board approved the Budget Ordinance for Aerospace Development Area- Find 835. In favor 7, opposed 0. A roll call vote was taken: 7 yes, 0 no.

Change Order for Aerospace Development Taxi Lane Improvements

Shorter presented a change order submitted by Talbert, Bright, and Ellington in the amount of \$309,119.00. This change order will allow improvements to a portion of Taxiway A at the approach end of Runway 4 that will provide support for aircraft utilizing the Aerospace Development Area.

On motion by Morris, seconded by Liner, the Board approved the Chairman to sign the change order as submitted by Talbert, Bright, and Ellington in the amount of \$309,119.00 once the County Finance Officer reviews and approves the funding. In favor 7, opposed 0.

Open Discussion

Pope nominated the following members to serve as the nominating committee for Officer recommendations for the FY27 year: Morris, Jones, and

Eckert. Morris was also appointed to serve as the Chairman of the nominating committee.

Executive Session

On motion by Morris, seconded by Wood, the Board went into executive session at 2:53 pm in accordance with N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the expansion of business or industry in the area served by the Authority. In favor 7, opposed 0.

On motion by Wood, seconded by Liner, the Board came out of executive session at 3:45 pm. In favor 7, opposed 0.

There was no action taken in the executive session.

On motion by Morris, seconded by Eckert, the Board adjourned at 3:46 pm. In favor 7, opposed 0.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Eckert', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary Mark Eckert